



News Release

Office of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal
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CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAYS IN COMMERCIAL OCCUPANCIES

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

With the holiday season nearing, the State Fire Marshal's Office wishes to remind business people of the legal way to display Christmas trees. The State Fire Marshal's Office says that legally adopted state fire codes require commercial occupancies to comply with the following Christmas tree display regulations:

If artificial trees are to be used, only trees that are labeled as flame-retardant are permitted. Approved electrical lighting is permissible. "Approved" means tested by a national testing laboratory such as Underwriter's Laboratories (UL).

If a live tree is to be used, there are three (3) legally acceptable possibilities:

1. A "cut" tree that has been treated with an approved flame-retardant flocking material.
2. An "uncut" tree with its roots still attached.
3. An untreated "cut" tree with no lights where water is maintained is at the discretion of the owner as to when it is to be removed.

Approved lighting can legally be used on either an "uncut" tree or a "cut" tree that has been treated with a flame-retardant material. Approved lighting CANNOT be used on "cut" trees that have not been treated with a flame-retardant material except in a fully automatic sprinklered building.

The State Fire Marshal has no legal jurisdiction in one (1) or two (2) family dwellings, but recommends these requirements for those dwellings also.

Questions about this release should be made to the local State Fire Marshal's Office or to the local Fire Department or Fire Prevention Bureau.

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